**Sermon Title: The Truth About The Married In A Christ-less Culture**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of the permanence of marriage.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 words of counsel for the married Christian.**

**Introduction:**

**I. The charge for the married believers. V.10**

**II. The concession for the married believers. V.11**

**III. The conflict for the mixed married believers. Vv.12-15**

**IV. The counsel for the mixed married believers. V.16**

**I. The charge for the married believers. V.10**

The practical problems of an early marriage are not nearly as serious as the dangers of immorality.

 A. The charge is from the Lord **Jesus** Christ. V.10a

 **Matthew 19:6-10** "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." **7** They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" **8** He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." **10** His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry."

 **Matthew 5:32** "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immoralitycauses her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

 B. The charge is to maintain the union of marriage. V.10b

 (**Mark 10:1-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39-40**)

 **Malachi 2:16** "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

**II. The concession for the married believers. V.11**

 A. The choice is to remain **unmarried**. V.11a

 B. The choice is to be **reconciled** with your spouse. V.11b

**III. The conflict for the mixed married believers. Vv.12-15**

 What should happen when one of the spouses do not belong or become a member of the covenant community? (**Acts 10:9-16, 28-35, 36-43**)

 **1 Peter 3:1-7** Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. **3** Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel-- **4** rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. **5** For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. **7** Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

 **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? **15** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? **16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For youare the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." **17** Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you **18** "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

 **Romans 12:18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

 1. The bond is broken biblically by **death**.

 **Romans 7:2** For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.

 2. The bond is broken biblically by **sexual immorality**.

 **Matthew 19:9** "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

 3. The bond is broken biblically by **unbelievers**.

 **1 Corinthians 7:15-16** But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*. But God has called us to peace. **16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save *your* husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save *your* wife?

 Where divorce is permitted, remarriage is permitted. Is (not enslaved) a Christian is not obligated to insist that the marriage remain intact if he or she is married to a non-Christian who wants to end the marriage. The believing partner due to the grace of God, and purposes of Christian being in covenant with a Christian may accept a divorce and remarry in the Lord.

 **Ezra 10:1-4** Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly. **2** And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, *one* of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this. **3** "Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. **4** "Arise, for *this* matter *is* your *responsibility*. We also *are* with you. Be of good courage, and do *it*."

**IV. The counsel for the mixed married believers. V.16**